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LB 833

SENATOR BROWN: Is...is there...because...because the...the students were under a contract arrangement, now does this set a precedent in terms of districts being able to give priority to certain students based on...for option? I mean, one of my concerns is that option is supposed to be something that there's not a designation of particular students who get priority. And I wonder if, by virtue of the way that this has been set up, it will set a precedent in terms of priority for option students?

SENATOR RAIKES: Senator, if I understand your question, I think that it would not provide any special priority, if that's the...the issue. I'm glad you raise the issue, and I should have mentioned another point. This deals generally with the situation of option students going from a contractual or, excuse me, students going from a contractual arrangement to an option arrangement. Now I use the specific example of Grand Island, Grand Island Northwest, because that is an example. The language of the bill, of course, is more general than that, would deal with any arrangement in which this sort of a contractual deal or arrangement had been in place for 15 years or more. But basic...

SENATOR BROWN: So, in...

SENATOR RAIKES: Excuse me.

SENATOR BROWN: ...in those situations do the students that were under a contract, are they guaranteed a place as an option student?

SENATOR RAIKES: I don't know exactly. They...I think the answer to that is no, they would be treated in a similar fashion to any other option student. And again, the emphasis here is on providing financing for the public school system that does receive these option students. And certainly from that standpoint the mechanism for funding option students in this school system, or a school system where you've got...you're converting from a contract to option, would be exactly the same as any other option students.